

Annual Report

ON THE

*Sanitary and Housing
Conditions*

OF THE

Kirkham Urban District

FOR THE YEAR 1940.



L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PRESTON :

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FOR THE YEAR 1940.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my first Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1940. As the Council are aware, my period of office commenced on April 1st, 1940.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's request, this report is of an interim nature, and in the main is confined to vital statistics.

I wish to express my appreciation for the courtesy and co-operation which I have invariably received from the Council and my fellow officials.

AREA.—The Area of the Kirkham Urban District is 940 statute acres.

POPULATION.—The population of the Kirkham Urban District for the year 1940, for the purposes of statistics, is 4,492. The population (Census 1921) was 3,892. The 1931 Census gave the population as 4,031.

The number of inhabited houses (Census 1931) was 1,064, and 1,215 at the end of 1940 according to the rate books.

THE RATEABLE VALUE of the District was £28,214, and the sum represented by a penny rate £101.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE.—The Live Births reported by the local Registrar as occurring in the Urban District of Kirkham during the year ended 31st December, 1940, numbered 45 (males 29, females 16).

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATE.—The number of deaths registered locally as belonging to the Kirkham Urban District during the year 1940 was 50 (males 16, females 34).

CAUSES OF DEATH.

PHTHISIS.—2 deaths were registered as due to Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The deaths of children under 1 year of age numbered 5 (males 3, females 2).

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no hospitals in the district, but advantage is taken of those in the neighbourhood, viz.:—

- (1) The Fylde Joint Hospital at Moss Side, near Lytham, for Infectious Diseases.
- (2) Preston, Fylde and Garstang Hospital at Elswick for Smallpox.
- (3) Elswick Sanatorium for cases of Tuberculosis.
- (4) Preston Royal Infirmary for serious accidents and surgical operations.

The Fylde Union Institution at Wesham, adjoining Kirkham, has also an Infirmary, and receives necessitous cases, and those of Maternity when required. The accommodation is very good, and is not only used by this district, but also by the Fylde Rural District, Blackpool, Fleetwood, Poulton, and Lytham—St. Annes.

With regard to hospital administration, Committees are formed consisting of representatives from the various Councils of the area.

POOR-LAW INSTITUTIONS.—As mentioned above, use is made of the Fylde Union Institution at Derby Road, Wesham.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Ambulance facilities for the district are very good.

(a) For Infectious Cases: The Moss Side Isolation Hospital has a Motor Ambulance for conveyance of patients to the Hospital. The Elswick Sanatorium has also a Motor Ambulance for tuberculous patients.

(b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases: Private Ambulances may be hired from Preston or Blackpool or locally, for those who can afford to pay the cost. The provision of such service for necessitous cases is undertaken by the Council by arrangement with a private motor ambulance hirer.

The cost of hospital treatment for infectious diseases to the local authority for two recent years has been £332 6s. 0d. for the year ended 31st March, 1939, and £221 13s. 1d. for the year ended 31st March, 1940.

The cubicle block extension to the Fylde Joint Isolation Hospital is now in use and proving very helpful.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is provided by the County Council, and is situate in Mellor Road.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—Use is made of the Dispensary at Elswick Sanatorium. This is under the care of the Medical Officer of that Institution.

SCHOOL CLINIC.—The Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out in all Schools by the School Medical Officer acting under the County Council, who, under the new scheme, is also the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.—Treatment is given at the Preston Royal Infirmary, under a scheme of the County Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

For nursing in the home there is the Kirkham and Wesham District Nursing Association. This is maintained by subscriptions from members of the Association, and employs one Nurse, who attends cases of illness, with the exception of infectious cases, in their homes in the districts of Kirkham and Wesham. No co-ordination exists with the local authority, and no financial obligations fall upon the authority. Midwifery cases are not undertaken by the Association.

LABORATORY WORK.

The examination of specimens for the detection of the Diphtheria organisms has been carried out at the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory.

Specimens of sputum are sent to Elswick Sanatorium for the detection of the Tubercle Bacillus.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.

There have been no new local Acts or adoption of any Acts during the year.

SCHOOLS.

The medical inspection of school children under the Education Act is carried out in all Schools in the district by the School Medical Officer, acting under the County Council.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1940.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE
YEAR 1940.

DISEASES	CASES NOTIFIED													HOSPITAL		
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Under 1 Year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District.
Smallpox																
Scarlet Fever	1			1											1	
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	5			1		2	1			1					5	
Enteric Fever(incl. Paratyphoid)																
Acute Primary Pneumonia																
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ...	1											1				
Puerperal Fever																
Puerperal pyrexia																
Cerebro-Spinal Fever																
Acute poliomyelitis																
Acute polio-encephalitis																
Encephalitis Lethargica																
Dysentery																
Ophthalmia Neonatorum																
Erysipelas																
Malaria contracted abroad																
In this country																
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g.,—Chicken-pox ...																
Measles and German Measles ...	10		1	3			3	2		1						
Whooping Cough	3		3													
Any other disease																
Totals	20		6	5		5	3		1	1	1			6		

TUBERCULOSIS.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 5 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1940.

AGE PERIODS.		NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Years.									
0—1	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—20	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
25—35	.....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45	.....	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
45—55	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	.....	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0

All the deaths from Tuberculosis were of cases who had previously been notified.

The notification of Tuberculosis in the district as a rule is good, and there has been no need to take action in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925:

There has been no action taken under these regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

The district is under the care of the Medical Officer of the Elswick Sanatorium. Every week notifications of Tuberculosis (if any) are sent to the County Medical Officer. The Tuberculosis Officer visits each patient with the Medical Attendant, and, where necessary, domiciliary or sanatorium treatment is given. On the occasion of death or removal to a sanatorium the dwellings are always disinfected.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.



Kirkham
Urban Sanitary Authority.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Twenty-ninth Annual Report on the work done in the Sanitary Department during 1940.

During the year 29 notices and letters have been served with regard to the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of insanitary defects.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Particulars of any extension or improvement during the year:—

Extension: The Scavenging of the whole of the District is carried out weekly; and for the Military Authorities twice weekly for refuse, and their pail closets every day.

The work is done by the Council's men and motor under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Average weekly number of loads of refuse dealt with at the Destructor: 21.

				Conversions during 1940.		During 5 years 1935-1939.	
No. of Privy closets:—							
To fresh-water closets				—	85
To pail closets				—	—

No. of Pail closets:—

To fresh-water closets ... ..	—	...	...	10
To waste-water closets	—	—

No. of Waste-water closets:—

To fresh-water closets	—	2
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No. of houses at which movable
ashbins have been substituted

for fixed receptacles	—	117
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Is there any definite policy at the present time for
abolishing privy middens and pail closets? No.

Does the Council contribute towards the cost of
conversion? No.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new
property? All fresh-water closets.

The following are the number of closets and ash-pits:—

Fresh-water closets	1223
Waste-water closets	21
Privy closets	19
Privy ashpits	14
Dry ashpits	8
Ashbins in town	985
Military ashbins (approximate)	280

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No rivers and streams pass through
the district.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM.—The sewerage, in con-
junction with that from Wesham, runs to sedimentation tanks at
Newton and then into the River Ribble.

The sewerage from the Military Camp is also being dealt with.
Two men are engaged regularly cleaning out the tanks.

New sewerage tanks are being constructed which when completed will be able to deal with all the sewerage in a satisfactory manner.

No. of houses connected direct to sewer	1176
„ „ „ to septic tanks	34
Estimated No. of houses on the water-carriage system.	1181

WATER SUPPLY is good and ample, and is under the control of the Fylde Water Board.

The water mains have been flushed by the Fylde Water Board's workmen at different times.

All the houses in the town are supplied with Fylde water, except two bungalows, which are supplied from a well.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTIONS.

No. of disinfections after death or removal of tuberculosis cases	2
„ „ houses disinfected	18
„ „ Schools disinfected	4
„ „ Library and other books disinfected	43

All cases are visited upon receipt of notification. After the death or removal of patients for either hospital or sanatorium treatment the rooms are thoroughly disinfected with formalin.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools are inspected regularly and found satisfactory. All the Schools are supplied with Fylde water, and have fresh-water closets connected direct to the sewer.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

No. on Register: 1. What is its conditions? Fairly satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No. of premises: None. Type of offensive trade: None.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH, INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
FACTORIES with Mechanical power	56	1	...
FACTORIES without Mechanical power	39	1	...
Other premises under the Act (including Building and Engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) ..	...	...	...
Total	95	2	...

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .....	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient .....	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	...	...
Not separate for sexes .....	..	...	...	...
Other Offences .....	...	...	...	...
Total	2	2	...	...

Number of Factory and Works chimneys in the District 7

Number of black smoke observations 11

Time limit allowed—Minutes per hour 6

LIVESTOCK (RESTRICTION ON SLAUGHTERING) (No. 2) ORDER, 1940.

MINISTRY OF FOOD ORDER WHICH CAME INTO OPERATION
JANUARY 15TH, 1940.

None of the three Registered Slaughter-houses has been used during the year.

All animals destined for food have been killed outside the district and the meat brought in and allocated to our butchers. 26-lbs. of beef was condemned as unfit.

SHELLFISH (MOLLUSCANS).

Particulars of any shellfish beds or layings which may be in the district. None in District.

MILK SUPPLY.—Action taken with regard to milk, including inspection of farms and dairies, the Administration of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938.

Under the Milk and Dairies Act 1926 there are 10 Registered producers and retailers of milk, and 3 Registered retailers only. 129 inspections have been made to these premises, which have been kept in a clean, sanitary condition.

All the farms are supplied with Fylde water.

Number of Registered Cheese Factories	1
„ „ Registered Cowkeepers, including Dairy Farms ...	10
„ „ Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers)	3
„ „ Licences issued to Dealers in respect of Tuberculin Tested	3
Approximate number of Dairy Cows in district	114

Part of the milk supply is brought in by farmers from the surrounding districts.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1938.

During the year ending 31st December, 1940, the following samples have been taken:—

Fourteen samples of milk taken by the County Police. On analysis by the Public Analyst all samples were found to be genuine.

Seven samples of milk taken by the County Sanitary Inspector. Six samples were found to be genuine and one sample deficient in fat.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

(a) Shops Act, 1934.

(b) Public Health Act, 1936.

No action necessary.

CAMPING SITES.—None in District, only Military.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT. SANITARY INSPECTION.

Number of Premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	374
„ „ Defects or Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
„ „ Preliminary Notices served by Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
„ „ Statutory Notices served by Order of Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Nuisances remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
„ „ Drains opened out and defects rectified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ Defective roofs and gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ Houses repaired inside	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ Defective w.c. basins and cisterns	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

RAG FLOCKS ACTS, 1911 AND 1928.

Number of premises in district in which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold:—

Number of inspections, . Number of samples taken, .

Results: None in District.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year None

Number of houses on Rate Books 1215

HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV.: OVERCROWDING.

- (a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year 1
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein 1
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein 8
- (b) (1) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 2
- (c) (2) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded, after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... None

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:—

Give particulars of any action taken during 1940. None

Methods employed for the eradication of bed bugs. Fumigation with Hydo Cyanide.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b) . None

I. By the Local Authority None

II. By other bodies or persons None

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—

I. By the Local Authority included under

(a) I. above None

II. By other bodies or persons included under

(a) above None

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The general housing conditions are good, mostly working-class houses of both parlour and non-parlour type.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district. None.

Comment on the extent to which housing matters have been affected by the changed conditions during the year under review:—

A large number of people from bombed areas have been evacuated here; also wives and families of soldiers and Air Force have come to reside in the town.

2.—HOUSING SCHEMES. Particulars of any housing schemes in hand or completed during 1940. None.

3.—OVERCROWDING. Comment briefly on the position with regard to overcrowding conditions in the area:—

Three cases of overcrowding have been remedied.

4.—CLEARANCE AND IMPROVEMENT AREAS.—Give particulars of any action taken during 1940. None.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1940. None.

I am, your obediently,

JAMES R. HOLMES,

M.I.H., A.R.S.I., N.D.A.,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.



